

In re Patent Application of
HEELEY ET AL.
Serial No. 10/521,039
Filed: NOVEMBER 14, 2005

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the careful and thorough examination of the present application, for correctly withdrawing the previous rejections in view of Applicants' arguments filed August 1, 2008, and for the indication of allowable subject matter. Claims 16-36 remain pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected Claims 16, 17, 19, 24, 27-30, 32 and 34-36 over newly cited prior art reference U.S. Patent No. 6,993,945 to Chen. The Examiner has also indicated that various dependent claims (e.g. Claims 18, 20-23, 25, 26, 31 and 33) are directed to patentable subject matter.

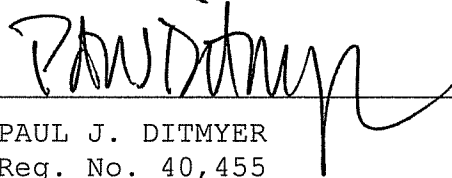
Applicants point out that the Chen patent issued on February 7, 2006 and has an earliest filing date of November 3, 2004. Accordingly, this reference does not qualify as prior art against the present application which has a PCT filing date of July 11, 2003 with foreign priority of July 12, 2002. Therefore, the prior art rejection should be properly withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is earnestly solicited. If, after reviewing this Response, there are any remaining informalities which need to be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited and

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respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone
to resolve such informalities.

Respectfully submitted,



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